GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4115
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2005
HIGHER EDUCATION
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present structure of higher education in the country is outdated;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether higher education in the country is fragmented and takes place in nearly 16,000 institutions called affiliated colleges;

(d) if so, whether many of them are devoid of basic facilities;

(e) whether the higher education in the country needs a far reaching structural reconstruction; and

(f) if so, the corrective steps proposed by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) to (f): According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, Indian higher education system is one of the largest systems in the world. It has many institutions of international repute like IITs, IISc, AIIMS, IIMs and several universities & colleges with potential for excellence. These institutions have been producing high quality manpower, widely respected in different fields.

Higher education in the country is being imparted through 345 universities, over 16,000 colleges with the holding capacity of 94 lakh students, manned by a contingent of 4.70 lakh teachers.

The UGC has launched a number of schemes with a view to providing greater financial assistance to institutions located in backward areas, younger institutions as also to universities and colleges with potential for excellence. Besides, UGC INFONET has been established to provide connectivity to all universities and colleges under UGC's purview free of charge. Despite all these, there is a need to allocate more funds to higher education to bring it to at least 25% of total education budget for higher and technical education together, as recommended by the Central Advisory Board of Education Committee on 'Financing of Higher and Technical Education'.